

REMARKS

The Office action has been carefully considered and the application has been amended accordingly.

Claims 1-7 are present in the application.

Claim 1, as originally filed, was objected to because it contained reference numerals that were not contained within parentheses. The objection has been overcome by deleting the reference numerals.

Claims 1-3 and 6, as originally presented, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hirsch et al. (U.S. 1,866,469). Claims 4, 5 and 7, as originally presented, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirsch et al., in view of "Admitted Prior Art."

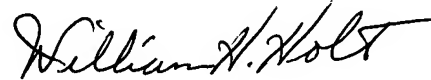
Parent claim 1 has been amended to more particularly define applicant's invention as including the step of peelably securing a peripheral portion of an end panel to the planar disposed flange portion of the closure ring. The method further includes "the step of displacing said flange portion, with said end panel peelably secured thereto, from said plane to an angle thereto for forming an acute angle with said plane prior to securing said ring member and end panel to a container..." The claim is further amended to recite, "whereby said end panel is maintained in shear with said annular flange portion and is peelable therefrom." Thus, as amended, claim 1, and claims 2-7 depending therefrom, define an invention that is neither taught nor suggested by the Hirsch et al. patent.

The cited patent teaches capturing the peripheral, marginal portion of the end panel within a bead 13. Thus, the end panel is no longer peelable from the flange when opening the container. It is submitted that applicant's method steps provide a solution to a former problem in the art in a manner neither taught, nor suggested, nor contemplated by the prior art.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the application is requested and allowance of claims 1-7 is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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